

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-10 and 14-26 were rejected. Claims 11-13 were previously cancelled. By entry of this amendment, claims 1-2, 4-5, 9, 18-19, 22 and 24-16 are amended, claims 17, 20-21 and 23 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 27-29 have been added. Consequently, claims 1-10 and 14-16, 18-19, 22 and 24-29 remain pending.

The specification is objected to for failure to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The undersigned believes that the Examiner is objecting to "mouth" referred to in claims 1, 4 and 9. This term has been deleted to better clarify the invention. Consequently, this objection is now moot.

Claims 4, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25 are objected to because of various informalities. Claims 4, 14, 15 and 25 have been amended pursuant to suggestions made by the Examiner. Claims 17, 21 and 23 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 19 has been amended to better define the invention. Consequently, withdraw of these objections is respectfully requested.

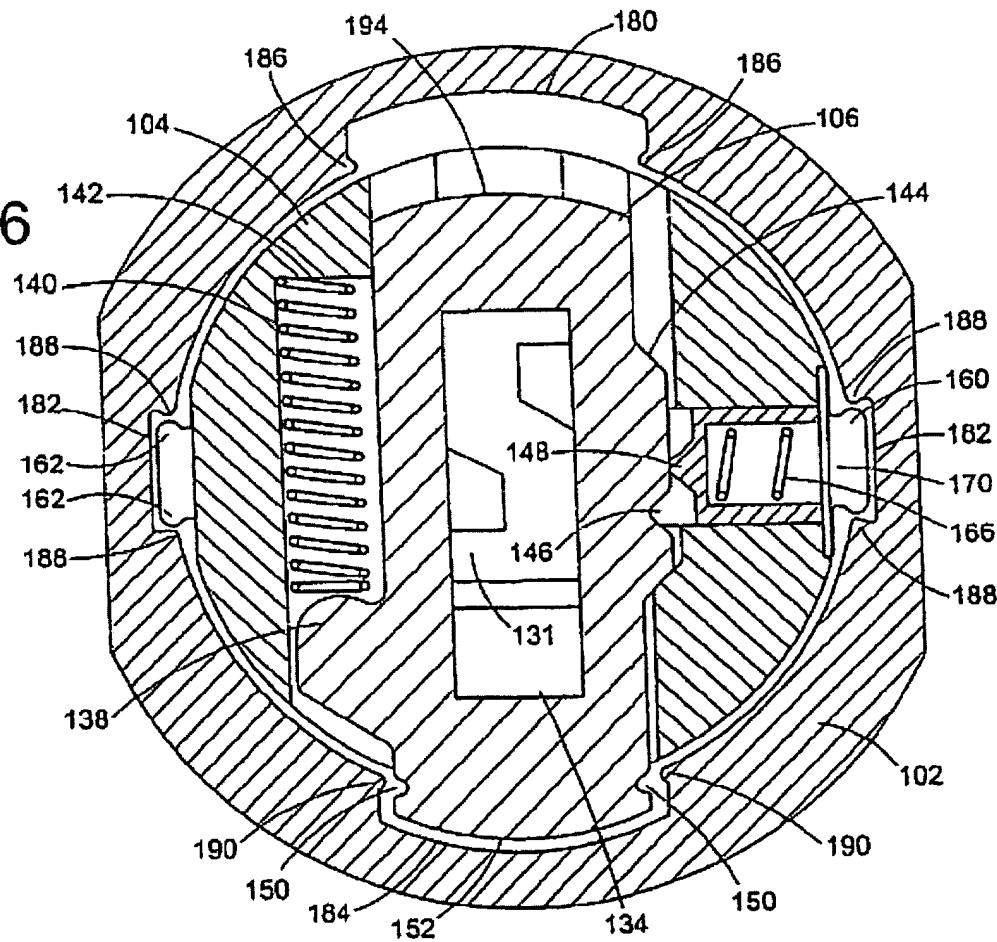
Claims 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. These three claims have been amended to match language in the specification (paragraph 0008) and the replacement Abstract. Consequently, withdraw of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1, 4 and 9 have been amended to better define the invention and are believed to be allowable. Claim 1 recites a locking mechanism wherein:

said at least one sidewall cavity having at least one projection, wherein said one or more sidebar members engages said at least one projection when in said first position and disengages from said at least one projection when in said second position, wherein engagement between said one or more sidebar members and said at least one projection in said first position prevents engagement of said plurality of tumblers and said tumbler cavity. (emphasis added)

Figure 6 of the present application illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the invention claimed in claim 1.

FIG. 6



The lock has a wafer-tumbler construction with two sidebar members spring-biased toward the axis of rotation of the lock cylinder. The lock is designed to add a level of security against picking. The lock shell 102 includes four sidewall cavities, a top tumbler cavity 180 and a

bottom tumbler cavity 184 aligned for mating with tumblers, and two side cavities 182 arranged for mating with sidebars 160, 162. The side cavities include two projections 188 at the mouth of the cavities 182. As illustrated in a locked position, the sidebars 160, 162 are in a position of rotational interference with the lock shell 102. If rotational torque is placed on the lock cylinder in the absence of a proper key inserted into the key slot, the tumblers will force the sidebar toward the cavity, and combined with the rounded outer edge surface of the sidebar, lock the sidebars into a position of interference with the shell 102. (See para. 0028). The tolerance between the sidebar and the sidewall cavity is less than the tolerance between the tumblers and the tumbler cavity. (See Fig. 6 and para 0007). As a result, when rotational torque is applied in the absence of the correct key, the tolerance difference provides for engagement of the sidebar projections with the sidewall cavities before the tumblers can engage the tumbler cavity. (See para. 0007).

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasper (which relies on Oliver) in view of Raymond et al and Spain. None of the cited references teach or suggest a locking mechanism as recited in claim 1. For example, none of the cited references teach or suggest a locking mechanism wherein engagement between a sidebar and a projection in the first position prevents engagement of the tumblers and the tumbler cavity.

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is believed that claim 1 is allowable. Therefore, the undersigned respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above in regard to claim 1, it is believed that claims 4 and 9 are also allowable. Therefore, the undersigned respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections of claim 4 and 9. Further, the remaining pending dependent claims are allowable at least based on direct or indirect dependence on allowable independent claims 1, 4 and 9.

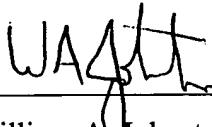
The Examiner has rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasper (which relies on Oliver) in view of Raymond et al and Spain as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Liss. Claim 17 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

The Examiner has rejected claim 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasper (which relies on Oliver) in view of Raymond et al and Spain as applied to claims 1, 4 and 9, and further in view of Ritcher. These claims are allowable at least based on direct dependence on allowable independent claims 1, 4 and 9, respectively. Therefore, the undersigned respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 24-26.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims of this application is respectfully solicited. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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